

# Community News



97-16451

Above: A group of Space Camp friends that passes on what it learns in NASA visits through school speeches, scouting activities and other hometown opportunities listens as James Lewis of JSC describes the Magnetic Berthing Demonstration System in Bldg. 13. From left are Kathy Nicholas, Everett Bennett, Margaret Doran, Sue Gilbert, Mary Helen Atkins, and JSC co-op engineering student Laura Marstad. Right: Bob Heppel, left, and Mike Lecrone, center, of Zeus Co., listen as Jason Andringa describes an animated presentation of the capabilities of the X-38 crew return vehicle. A scale model of the X-38 is being built in the background. Below left: 3-D glasses enhance the effects of a computer generated film shown in the Bldg. 9 International Space Station virtual environment fly-through theater. Below right: Dr. Michael Zolensky of JSC's Space and Life Sciences Directorate helps a visitor use a microscope to see what happens when a particle is fired through Aerogel at extreme velocities. Aerogel is a light, silica-based material developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory that will be used to capture interstellar dust grains for study.



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## Inspection 97 'top notch,' guests report

By Debi Shoots

Despite uncooperative weather, about 2,500 visitors from 45 states across the nation and nine different countries flocked to Inspection 97, and in their eyes, it was a huge success.

"I've been here three days, probably the best three days of the year," said one guest, Phillip Puddy of Puddy and Associates. "I found some things that I can use in my company and personally, at least a dozen. I didn't realize I97 would be this grand of a scale. Several people [that I've talked to] said that it's the best gathering of technical knowledge they've seen in a lifetime of attending this kind of thing."

Peter Simmang, with American Builders Mortgage in Austin, said he hadn't realized the extent of the practical applications for the kinds of space technology developed at JSC.

"We all know that some things make it down to use here on Earth," Simmang said. "I wasn't expecting to see quite so much that we can use in everyday life. I think the hardest thing is figuring out what you want to go see — there is so much."

Although JSC technologies and capabilities greatly impressed the guests, it was the I97 volunteers who made the event special. Repeatedly, visitors indicated they found the one-on-one communication with JSC workers of particular value. Quotes received from interviews and comment cards praised the enthusiasm of JSC's employees.

"This event is a spectacular example of masterful planning and organization—four-star all the way," said one attendee. "The JSC hosts were top-notch professionals—courteous, friendly and knowledgeable. I wish I had the stamina to do this tour for a week, because there is so much to see."

Another guest commented, "I think this Inspection was awesome. You've given me pride and ownership in our space program. The people here were helpful and had lots of information. Thanks for a wonderful experience."

James Whittington, a JSC employee host from the Small Business

Innovation Research Office, spoke of his experience, "We had one gentleman come by who said that he had learned in one hour of more contracting opportunities than he had learned of probably in the last year. Some guests from California told me they had an image of NASA as a closed-off agency with not much access to the public, and were very surprised by how friendly and open everyone was, and how many opportunities for doing business were here."

Repeat visitors noticed improvements in JSC's second inspection.

"Inspection was organized better this year," said Guadalupe Herrera with Radiant Technology in Dallas, "the way it was laid out, everything is running a lot smoother. There's new technology that's just completely changing every year."

In addition to providing business, community, and education leaders with one-on-one contact with the technology and projects at JSC, the success of I97 also can be measured by the creation of new and better opportunities for visitors and for NASA.

Dr. Bob Rice, an I97 exhibitor from the Somatic Sciences Institute in The Woodlands, said he came to Inspection Days last year for the first time.

"There I saw an opportunity to take an idea that brought me here as a visitor, meet with folks from different directorates here at JSC, and out of that create a joint-venture opportunity," he said. "Emerging from a visitor status to an exhibitor status one year later is really the whole idea of what Inspection is all about."

Inspection 97 Chairman Doug Blanchard thanked all of the exhibitors, volunteers and employees for the hard work and considerate demeanor that allowed the I97 guests to take home a wealth of information.

"The technical breadth of our work, combined with that of visiting corporate executives, business owners, entrepreneurs, and technical experts, created an incredibly fertile technical environment for new ideas, concepts, and business initiatives."

### Participation runs high

## Combined Federal Campaign continues to accept contributions

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Office, Technology Transfer and Commercialization, and Space Operations Management Office—achieved 100 percent participation.

Fifteen organizations exceeded their dollar goal. The Office of the Director contributed 184 percent. The Human Resources Office contributed 248 percent. The Office of the Chief Information Officer contributed 149 percent5. The Equal Opportunity Programs Office contributed 222 percent. The Legal Office contributed 166 percent. The Public Affairs Office contributed 183 percent. The Business Management Directorate contributed 103 percent. The Mission Operations Directorate contributed 111 percent. The Technology Transfer and Commercialization contributed 145 percent. The Office of the



Chief Financial Officer contributed 124 percent. The Space Shuttle Program contributed 134 percent. The Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance contributed 108 percent. The Space Operations Management Office contributed 102 percent. The EVA Projects Office contributed 146 percent. And the Phase 1 Program Office contributed 143 percent.

Almost 200 employees have pledged more than \$600 a year. More than 350 employees gave one-hour's pay per month, and 194 gave two-hour's pay per month.

"JSC employees' generosity will go a long way to help those less fortunate in our community," said Coordinator Teresa Sullivan.

Employees who have not already made their contributions may still do so. Contact Sullivan at x31034.

## JSC Safety Alert

### Unauthorized Relocation of Wall Hanging Systems or Modular Furniture

#### What Happened

A Herman Miller™ Systems furniture bookshelf attached to a wall partition in Bldg. 4 North fell and struck an employee on the head. The employee was not injured.

#### Outcome of the Investigation

The permanently mounted book shelf was removed from one wall panel section within a cubical and relocated to another wall panel section by someone other than a personnel trained by the manufacturer. Unauthorized moving of any systems or modular-type furniture may create an unsafe condition due to improper mounting, unstable wall panels, and at times will reduce the legally required amount of walking area required by the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code. The furniture is designed to be installed, removed, and relocated only by trained personnel. If improperly installed, the framework and support brackets will bend, the screws will pull out, and the structure will not support the intended load limits.

#### What Can You Do

Always work through the Furniture Group/Support Operations Division when you need additional shelves, or when you need to have any wall-mounted shelf unit or bookcases relocated. This is the NASA documented procedure and must be followed to provide you with a safe workplace.

#### Recommended Corrective Actions

The SOD will inspect each office and cubical on the second floor of Bldg. 4 North to identify and flag any existing unsafe placement or unsafe mounting of Herman Miller™ Systems furniture. An inventory will be compiled of the damaged furniture, and replacement parts will be requested. If you have relocated systems or modular furniture from one location to another, notify your building's Facility Manager to have it inspected for safety.